

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a customer of DIRECTV, I am writing to urge you to not support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will create a monopoly, and like all mergers, the consumer will pay for. Video and broadband choices for consumers like me should not be subjected to a monopoly. Cable and DBS are 2 different entities. Internet access via satellite is too expensive and unreliable.

The combined company will be a DBS Monopoly, with no real gain in the number of local TV channels via satellite in my market area.

I currently have broadband access to the Internet, and have no need for the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will allegedly result in increased competition in the broadband market by providing an affordable high-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite. I do not see where internet access has anything to do with DBS.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Brandt Richter
63 Starr Drive
Algonquin, IL 60102